

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 30 as follows:

In the illustrated non-limiting embodiment, the input interface 116 is connected to pins on the chip 110, which pins are connected to traces [[116']] 117 on the line card 109, which traces [[116']] 117 connect to line cards 106 through a releasable connector [[116']] 119. But the traces [[116']] 117 need not be contained or embedded within the switch card 109 and need not be electronic; for example, in embodiments where indium phosphide based switch fabrics are contemplated, guided or free-space optical inputs and outputs may be preferred.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 38, line 1 as follows:

One possible implementation of the request-processing module 770, the address decoder 780 and the packet-forwarding logic 790 is now described with additional reference to Fig. 4. The request processing section 770 comprises a request generator 420, which is connected to the queue controllers 710 (not shown in Figure 4) via the *request* lines 703 and the *priority* lines 707. The request generator 420 is also connected to a programmable round-robin arbiter (PRRA) 422 via a plurality of *request* lines 424 and may further be connected to a pointer control entity 412 via a control line 413.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 40, line 5 as follows:

To simplify the description, but without limiting the scope of the invention, it can be assumed that a pointer and a mask are not

defined for each possible priority level, but rather for each of a set of priority classes, namely high, medium and low. ~~[[Also,]]~~ As shown in Fig. 7, transmitter 140 comprises N queue controllers 710_i, 1 ≤ i ≤ N. While it is expressly understood that N can be any positive integer, by way of example let it be assumed for the moment that N = 4, i.e., there are ~~[[assumed-to-be]]~~ four queue controllers 710₁, 710₂, 710₃, 710₄ that submit requests to the request generator 420.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 40, line 13 as follows:

By way of this example, let the requests from queue controllers 710₁, 710₂, 710₃, 710₄ be associated with medium, NONE, low and medium priority classes, respectively. That is to say, queue controller 710₂ has not submitted a request. Accordingly, the initial "high" mask would be 0000 (as no request has a high priority class), the initial "medium" mask would be 1001 (as queue controllers 710₁ and 710₄ have submitted requests associated with a medium priority class) and the initial "low" mask would be 0010 (as queue controller 710₃, has submitted a request associated with a low priority class). The initial value of each pointer would be set to zero, as no request has yet been granted.